


REMARKS

1. Applicants have herein cancelled all presently pending claims and presented new claims 10-29 for examination. Since this preliminary amendment is being filed within three months from the filing date of the present application, the preliminary amendment complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 and should be entered. Applicants submit that newly presented claims 10-29 are patentable over the prior art of record.

2. Applicants had previously paid for examination of twenty claims, three of which could be independent. Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, twenty claims will remain pending (i.e., claims 10-29), three of which are independent (claims 1, 22, and 25). Therefore, no additional fees should be necessary to examine newly presented claims 10-29.

3. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, facsimile or email if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the instant application. Please charge any necessary fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees (if applicable and not paid by separate check), to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1111.

Respectfully submitted,

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